



Athletic Fields require different levels of maintenance and performance according to the amount and type of use they get. Schools generally have two kinds of athletic fields; **Level A fields** = game fields where a higher level of maintenance and performance is required and **Level B fields** = practice and recreation fields requiring a lower level of maintenance and performance. Here are the guidelines for managing both.

Level A Fields

- * Proper design and construction is essential and includes providing drainage (surface and sub surface), good root mix, adapted turfgrass species, and proper establishment techniques at the right time.
- * Best Management Practices include:
 - (1) Irrigate to supplement rainfall. Provide 1.0 inch of moisture per week with early morning applications.
 - (2) Mow at 2.0 - 3.0 inches, frequently enough to remove 1/3 of the leaf blade or less. This also eliminates clipping build up.
 - (3) Mow with sharp mowers, when turf is dry and soil is not excessively moist.
 - (4) Soil Test, and adjust pH as needed.
 - (5) Fertilize with 50% - 100% WIN material. Use rate of 0.75 lb. N / M around May 15, June 15, Sept. 1, and Nov. 1
 - (6) Phosphorus and potassium fertilization amounts should be based on a soil test.
 - (7) Aerify once or twice per year either in the spring or fall.
 - (8) Overseed thin areas of field in May - June or September.
 - (9) Limit games or practices when field is wet; particularly when soil is moist.
Traffic on wet turf or excessively wet soil is particularly damaging.
 - (10) Scout for weed, insect or disease problems.

Level B Fields

- * Proper design and construction is essential and includes providing drainage (surface and sub surface), good root mix, adapted turfgrass species, and proper establishment techniques at the right time.
- * Best Management Practices include:
 - (1) Irrigate, in late summer, if turf is dormant and field will be used for fall sports.
 - (2) Mow at 2.5 - 3.0 inches, frequently enough to remove 1/3 of the leaf blade or less. This also eliminates clipping build up.

- (3) Mow with sharp mowers, when turf is dry and soil is not excessively moist.
- (4) Soil Test and adjust pH as needed.
- (5) Fertilize with 50% - 100% WIN material. Use rate of 1.0 lb. N / M around May 15, and Sept. 1
- (6) Phosphorus and potassium fertilization amounts should be based on a soil test.
- (7) Aerify once per year either in the spring or fall.
- (8) Overseed thin areas of field in May - June or September.
- (9) Limit games or practices when field is wet; particularly when soil is moist.
Traffic on wet turf or excessively wet soil is particularly damaging.
- (9) Scout for weed, insect or disease problems.